

Washington Artillery
 Veterans Association
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The Washington Artillery

DON'T FORGET
Annual Dues Are Payable By January 2013
Consider Becoming A Member In Perpetuity!

July 2013

WAVA NEWS
Committee Appointments

Active Battalion:	MAJ (P) Kenneth Baillie	(504) 715-7001
	CSM Mathew Drees	(504) 418-5704
Audit:	Rene Jacques	(504) 729-8155
	Frank Oliveri, III	(985) 893-2551
Awards/Recognition:	Norvin Schexnauldre	(504) 666-2898
	Ernest Guerra	(504) 450-1284
Budget:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883
Contact Roster:	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Finance:	Nelson Ardoin	(504) 738-9634
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	Rene Jacques	(504) 729-8155
	John DeMartini	(504) 738-7472
Fraternal:	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Mike Kreutz	(985) 898-6339
Historical:	Glen Cangelosi	(504) 391-1174
	John Fleming	(504) 887-8195
Legal/By-Laws:	Peter Breslin	(504) 810-6739
Membership:		
WAVA	Ernest Guerra – Chm.	(985) 661-1737
	Addison Thompson	(504) 279-2278
Active BN	MSG Errol Williams, Jr.	(337) 423-6118
Newsletter:	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
		fmuhs@cox.net

What's Inside!!!
New start time for Meetings, see page 2
 Dates of Meetings, Socials & Reunion
 President's & Commander's Message
 Officers and Board Members
 Dues/Membership Application/New Members

Nominations:	Russell Mayeur, Sr., Chm.	(504) 919-8577
	Joe Centanni	(504) 400-1141
	Russell Mayeur, Jr.	(228) 586-1194
	Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Parliamentarian:	Joe Taranto	(504) 834-3302
Photographer:	Eloise Mayeur	(504) 722-0378
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Planning:	Jordan Jones, Chm.	(985) 331-2093
	James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
	Ron Besson	(504) 458-6559
	Fred Muhs	(504) 236-3958
Programs/Publicity:	John DeMartini	(504) 738-7472
Recording Secretary:	Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Socials:	Ray Hartman	(504) 335-7214
	Joseph Whitman	(985) 249-2255
	Renda Besson	(504) 340-2987
Telephone:	Joe Centanni	(504) 733-1141
	Norvin Schexnauldre	(504) 666-2898
	Charlene Ardoin	(504) 296-9634
Website:	Jay Castagnetta	(985) 285-8883

What They Said...

“To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.” Theodore Roosevelt

Washington Artillery Veterans Association



WAVA News

No. 13-2 To Perpetuate the Spirit of the Washington Artillery (The 1/141FA under many numeric designations) July 2013

WAVA Officers

Jay Castagnetta	President
Ronald Besson	1st Vice President
Joseph Whitman	2nd Vice President
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr.	Secretary
James Copeland	Treasurer

Board of Directors

TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2013

Nelson Ardoin, Jr. (Charlene)	(504) 738-9634
Jay Castagnetta (Heidi)	(985) 285-8883
LTC Brian Champagne (Denise)	(504) 394-1913
Ray Hartman (Eva)	(504) 348-9185
Jay Hotard (Betty)	(504) 339-3121
MSG Errol M. Williams, Jr.	(985) 237-4136

TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2014

MAJ John DeMartini (Sandra)	(504) 738-7472
James Copeland	(504) 669-9684
Russell A. Mayeur, Sr. (Eloise)	(504) 919-8577
Joseph Whitman (Nancy)	(985) 249-2255
LT Anthony LaNasa, III	(504) 452-0358
Fred Muhs (Pat)	(504) 236-3958

TERM EXPIRES - DECEMBER 2015

Ronald Besson (Barbara)	(504) 347-5026
Michael Kreutz	(985) 898-6339
Joe Centanni (Lupe)	(504) 733-1141
Norvin Schexnaildre (Loyce)	(504) 889-0837
Ernest Guerra (Patsy)	(985) 661-1284
Russell Mayeur, Jr. (Judy)	(228) 586-1194

What They Said...

“It's better to hang out with people better than you. Pick out associates whose behavior is better than yours and you'll drift in that direction.”
Warren Buffett

Annual Dues

Please check your mailing label for the status of your dues. Annual dues for 2013 and previous years are payable immediately. Consider becoming a member in perpetuity. Membership/dues form is attached herein.

WAVA Meetings & Special Events

3rd and 4th Quarter of 2013

July 16	Board Meeting
August 20	General Membership
September 17	Annual BBQ Dinner
October 15	Board Meeting
November 19	General Membership
December 3	Annual General Membership Meeting
December 17	Special Board Meeting

Please Mark Your Calendar for All Meetings

WAVA will hold its meetings at Jackson Barracks in the 1/141 Armory. Enter the north gate from St. Claude Avenue and drive toward, the now closed, N. Claiborne Avenue gate to get to the 1/141 Armory.

1700 hours - WAVA Room opens for refreshments

1730 hours - Evening meal is served

1830 hours - Meeting starts

Socials and special events will be held there also, unless noted otherwise.

New WAVA Members

Perpetual Member: Rudolph Mayer, Joanne M. Airhart

Member: Carroll Trahan, Edwin Guidroz, Jr., Dan Williams
Emile F. Henriquez, Sr.

Perpetual Associate Member: LaDenna Piper, Joanne Airhart

Associate Member: Robert E. Bonner, Carroll P. Trahan



Taps

President's Message

From the desk of the President,

Well this is my third message to the membership and it's been quite a half year and one hell of a ride. I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and taking care to not over do it in the heat.

We have been successful in our financial investments already earning more on our money than we have during the same period for at least the last 10 years. Our Finance Committee is working hard to stay on top of things and our relationship with Ameriprise is great and responsive. Because of the efforts of our Social Committee we recently held one of the best socials since the WAVA Installation Dinner Dances of years gone by. The membership continues to climb with both active and past battalion members joining monthly. And for the newsletter, hats off to Fred Muhs for taking our newsletter to the next level.

Speaking of newsletters please look for the section about the Family Readiness Group (FRG). Jennifer Falgout has provided input and will use this media to keep the FRG up to date with current events. They will use both email and hardcopy distribution to keep their members informed. We welcome them on board and are always ready to support their needs.

Our relationship with the active battalion has rarely been better than it is now. MAJ Ken Baillie's support of our organization is unparalleled and we wish him continued successes with the growth of the active battalion as they return to honing their artillery skills.

Our future looks brighter than ever as we continue to improve the way we operate and put in place the tools necessary to provide for continuity of operations. We are planning IT upgrades which will allow easier access for those of us who operate the organization on a daily basis. The planning committee is close to completing its preparations to fill the display cases on the second floor with WAVA memorabilia.

On the social front there are several upcoming events I hope you are planning for. First is the BBQ social on Tuesday, September 17th, 2013. As with the Seafood Social we are looking for a fresh vendor for this event. We have been provided with several leads and will be deciding soon. Please make sure you RSVP in a timely manner, as you did for the Seafood Dinner, so we can plan as exciting an event as possible. The more lead time we have the better. The next big event will be the 'In the Company of Heroes' dinner being held at the WWII Museum on Thursday, November 7th. WAVA will be paying for tables. If you're interested in attending please contact Ron Besson. And finally St Barbara night will be in December. More information will follow on St. Barbara night.

Well that's where we are and a little about future plans. As always please feel free to contact me. My email address is jcast324@netzero.net.

Jay Castagnetta
President, WAVA

Battalion Commander's Message

Dear friends and WAVA Family,

June was an exceptionally good month for the Active Battalion of the Washington Artillery. The Battalion had its Annual Training from 01-15 June 2013 at Camp Shelby Mississippi, where it safely fired 715 rounds over a period of four days. This resulted in all gun sections and FDC sections present during Annual Training being completely certified and qualified. The support sections did great as well, and I can honestly say it was the best Annual Training I have had in years.

We had great weather, and even though it was very hot, the rain held off for a large part of the time.

While Annual Training was very eventful, the most eventful day was on 07 June. On 07 June, we had the BOSS Lift, which enabled several members of WAVA to visit the gun line, the FDC and the Battalion Headquarters. It was a pleasure to host WAVA, to get them out to the line and to see many of them enjoy an MRE for lunch.

Looking ahead, the next scheduled shoot is in September and we are preparing for it already. We look forward to another great year of training up so that we can go through the certification and qualification process much more smoothly in the years to come. I can tell you without reservation that the men and women of our battalion are among the best Soldiers anywhere.

As always, I appreciate the ongoing support and friendship of WAVA and all that they do for our Battalion. I remain humbled by the opportunity to be part of the best Field Artillery Battalion in the nation.

Try Us!

Kenneth T. Baillie
MAJ, FA, LAARNG
Commander
1-141 Field Artillery
Washington Artillery

WAVA Seafood Social

The WAVA Seafood Social was one for the record books. 198 people were served their fill of crawfish, shrimp, oyster, catfish, potato salad, boiled corn and potatoes. Oh yes, there was bread pudding for dessert. The lucky winner of the Half & Half drawing took home \$295.



(Note the “chow hounds” wrapped around the room.)

Bravo Zulu to Ron Besson and the Social Committee (Joe Whitman, Renda Besson, and Ray Hartman) for working tirelessly to insuring the successes of the social. Ernie Guerra and Nelson Ardoin pitched in the morning of the social by helping with the set up. And finally, thanks to Rene’ Jacques and Don Schwarzenbach for running the Half & Half table. I (the editor) personally know one person who sends them a big Hoo-Rah for their outstanding effort.

MSG Williams again proved to be a miracle worker when the WAVA guys were caught on the short end of the stick.

Mark your calendar now for the WAVA BBQ Social on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Remember to get your reservations in early to assure an adequate supply of food.

New WAVA Board Member Sworn In

In the brief meeting before the “mud bugs” were served at the Seafood Social, WAVA swore in Mike Kreutz to fill the remaining term of Pete Breslin who recently resigned from the WAVA Board of Directors.



Bill Mauldin Stamp Honors Grunts' Hero

Bill Mauldin is getting his own US postage stamp. Mauldin was an enlisted man just like the soldiers he drew for; his gripes were their gripes, his laughs were their laughs, his heartaches were their heartaches. He was one of them. They loved him.



He was a kid cartoonist for Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper; Mauldin's drawings of his muddy, exhausted, whisker-stubbed infantrymen Willie and Joe were the voice of truth about what it was like on the front lines.

Sometimes, when his cartoons cut too close for comfort, his superior officers tried to tone him down. In one memorable incident, he enraged Gen. George S. Patton, and Patton informed Mauldin he wanted the pointed cartoons -- celebrating the fighting men, lampooning the high-ranking officers -- to stop. Now.

The news passed from soldier to soldier. How was Sgt. Bill Mauldin going to stand up to Gen. Patton? Mauldin, it turned out, had an ardent fan: Five-star Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. Ike put out the word: Mauldin draws what Mauldin wants. Mauldin won. Patton lost.

By the time he was 23 years old, he won the Pulitzer Prize. He was featured on the cover of Time magazine. His book "Up Front" was the No. 1 best-seller in the United States.

Mauldin died at age 81 in the early days of 2003. The end of his life had been rugged. Unable to care for himself he became a resident of a California nursing home, his health and spirits in rapid decline.

He was not forgotten, though. Mauldin, and his work, meant so much to the millions of Americans who fought in World War II, and to those who had waited for them to come home.

A call was put out in Southern California for people in the area to send their best wishes to Mauldin so that Bill would not feel so alone. Soon more than 10,000 letters and cards had arrived at Mauldin's bedside.

Old soldiers began to show up just to sit with Mauldin, to let him know that they were there for him, as he, long ago, had been there for them. So many volunteered to visit Bill that there was a waiting list.

In the summer and fall of 2002 they came to the nursing home to honor Army Sergeant, Technician Third Grade, Bill Mauldin. They came bearing relics of their youth: medals, insignia, photographs, and carefully folded newspaper clippings. Some wore old garrison caps. Others arrived in uniforms over a half century old. Almost all of them wept as they filed down the corridor like pilgrims fulfilling some long-neglected obligation.

By Bob Greene, CNN Contributor

How Did You Spend Memorial Day?

Our roving reporter spotted two WAVA members out participating in some of the recent Memorial Day festivities that took place in New Orleans. In this image taken from the WDSU-TV news coverage of the Memorial Day Commemoration at the National W.W.II Museum we see Russell Mayeur, Sr. and John Fleming among the attendees.



Russell Mayeur, Jr. and John Fleming, on Memorial Day, at the National W.W.II Museum in New Orleans on 27 May, 2013.

What They Said...

“You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.”

Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 Blackbird Test Pilot)



The United States Field Artillery Association was founded in 1910 by Major John E. McMahon, Captain William J. Snow, and Captain W.S. McNair to promote the Field Artillery and enhance the professionalism and tradition of artillerymen. More than 100 years later, the Association stands strong as the only professional organization which services the Field Artillery branch of the military. Help continue the Field Artillery Legacy by keeping your membership active and encouraging other Redlegs to join and remain active.

Please consider joining this fine organization and support our Redlegs. Follow this link for membership info.

http://www.redlegoutpost.com/isles/membership_app.htm

Or use the membership form in this newsletter and note the Chapter as the “Louisiana Tigers”.

1/141 Family Readiness Group News

Hello to all 1/141 Families and Soldiers,

My name is Jennifer Falgout (Gerald Falgout’s mom). I am the Battalion Family Readiness Group (FRG) Point Of Contact (POC). As Battalion POC my responsibility is to oversee the 1/141 FRG which includes all Battery FRG’s and the Battalion FRG Board and report back to the Commander, Major Baillie. The Board is made up of the Leaders and Co-Leaders of each Battery, a president, a secretary, and a treasurer. We are currently in need of volunteers for some positions. If you feel that you would like to help in any way, please contact one of the Board members. The main focus of the Battalion FRG is to make services and information available to our soldiers and families. We will be selling items periodically to help offset the cost of some services, such as parties, that will be battalion wide.



Each Battery has a FRG which consists of a Leader and Co-Leader and members of their battery. They also have positions that are voluntarily filled from each battery. Right now these leaders are: **Alpha** Leader- Pam Tapie (Chris Tapie’s mom); **Bravo** Leader -Jessica Bonnet (Keith Bonnet’s wife); **HNB** Leader -Kristen Billiot (Terrell Billiot’s wife). **Golf** is in need of a Leader and help to set up their FRG. If anyone would like to help these ladies out, please ask your soldiers, they should have our contact info. The next letter will have more in-depth contact information for each Battery. My email address is: jennifer.falgout@gmail.com.

We have in the past published our own newsletter, but WAVA has graciously offered to let the FRG post news items in the WAVA newsletter, thereby saving us money. Hopefully, we will forward to our families through email and give to soldiers on drill weekends. The FRG runs on a very limited budget and any monies saved will allow the FRG to offer services to you, our soldiers and families.

In the past I have met most of you and look forward to meeting those I have not. Please consider joining and actively participating in your FRG.

Jennifer Falgout
1/141 Battalion POC

Visit the WAVA website at:
www.washingtonartillery.org



**WAVA Attends Battalion Annual Training
At Camp Shelby, MS (01-15 June 2013)**

The Battalion invited WAVA members and members of ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) to attend their Annual Training at Camp Shelby, MS. Also in attendance were three employers supporting ESGR. For details of the event, please refer to the Commander's Comments. Here in, we are just going to give you a snapshot view of some of the things we saw at the AT.



A briefing in the Field Command Center

An explanation of the new equipment in Battalion Fire Direction Center



Everyone was outfitted with a Kevlar and hearing protection

Everywhere the WAVA members went they drew the attention of the gun crews.



Lunch was some of Uncle Sam's finest MREs. Everyone was impressed with the endless choices on the "carte du jour"



Everyone lined up to get a hand on the long lanyard for a good old fashion artillery "Gang Bang!!" Know what I mean?



An FO "want-a-be" takes a sighting, with the "Viper" range finding binoculars, on a potential target for a fire mission

Out in the impact zone, the rounds make their presence known with clouds of smoke and some muffled thumps



They call it Smokeless Powder but there was plenty of smoke to go around if you wanted to get a nose full

WAVA members in attendance were: Russ Mayeur, Jr., Judy Mayeur, Russ Mayeur, Sr., Ernie Guerra, Jim Copeland, Ed Benezech, John Fleming, Jay Hotard, and Fred Muhs. Also, Members of the ESGR, Frank Honercutte, Ed Hooks, and Larry Jones. (Also attending, were three employers of soldiers in the Battalion invited by the ESGR representatives)

